



# Suggestions for Program Scholars

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## From Librarians:

- Help the library coordinator prepare participants for the book, in advance. Provide discussion questions or suggestions for ideas participants might keep in mind as they read the book.
- Keep formal remarks brief – not more than 20–30 minutes.
- Focus on the evening's book and theme rather than personal accomplishments, other books by same author, research, etc.
- Be prepared for participants' negative reaction to the book (including length, language and explicitness), but try to keep your own personal negative bias about book or author to a minimum.

## From Other Program Scholars

- Discuss program expectations with library coordinator in advance, including format, arrangement of chairs, discussion questions, audience, etc. Don't hesitate to contact the library if you have not heard from them.
- Encourage participants to break into small groups for discussion even though they resist.
- Be prepared for participants who have not read the book by providing a brief synopsis or asking participants to read passages from the book during the program.
- If your program is first in the series, provide an overview of the theme and how the books will explore the theme.
- To help provide continuity between programs, ask the library coordinator or another participant to summarize discussion from the previous program.
- If your program is the last in the series, provide a wrap up to the theme and the series' books.